1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Rajasthan	6500	6800	6550	6850	7000	7150	7500	76
5.	J & K	6500	6800	6500	6800	6680	7000	6680	70
6.	Delhi	6400	6700	6700	7000	6740	7060	6740	70
7.	Maharashtra	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
8.	Gujarat	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
9.	Madhya Pradesh	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
10.	West Bengal	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
11.	Bihar	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
12.	Orissa	6350	6650	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
13.	Tamil Nadu	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
14.	Karnataka	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
15.	Andhra Pradesh	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74
16.	Kerala	6300	6600	6450	6750	6630	6950	7130	74

*The price of rice for port towns and areas within 50 Kms thereof, will be Rs. 50/- per tonne less than the Export price.

[English]

Handicapped Development Corporation

1705. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Handicapped Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated so far by the Corporation for the economic upliftment of the handicapped persons;

(c) details of the progress reported under each of the schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the other major projects undertaken by the Corporation and the progress reported thereunder ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been set up as a Company not for profit under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, w.e.f. 24th Jan., 1997. Action to formulate schemes, guidelines, etc., has been initiated.

Conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry

1706. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry and Dairying was held recently;

(b) if so, whether emphasis was given there at to develop the livestock sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith other points discussed and decisions taken at the conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The conference broadly discussed the draft national livestock policy and approach to livestock development during the Ninth Plan. The major decisions and recommendations of the conference are given below:

1. The conference broadly endorsed the national livestock policy.
2. The conference strongly recommended for the establishment of an Indian Council of Veterinary Research.
3. The conference recommended for setting up of 60,000 additional artificial insemination centres for effective cross breeding programmes for upgradation of genetic potential and the productivity level of indigenous livestock.
4. The conference recommended for formation of one lakh dairy cooperatives in areas not covered under Operation Flood Programme.

5. The conference recommended for establishment of District Composite Livestock and Demonstration Centres (Pashu Vigyan Kendras).

6. The conference recommended for provision of higher allocation for the rapid development of animal husbandry sector during the Ninth Plan.

Support Price of Wheat

1707. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the support price of wheat during the 1997-98 rabi marketing season has been fixed at Rs. 415 per quintal;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is higher in comparison to the last year;

(c) the extent to which this decision will be helpful in procuring the wheat in the open market;

(d) whether the Government have advised the States to make adequate arrangement to tackle the problem of storage and movement in the major wheat producing States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The minimum support price of wheat during 1997-98 marketing year is higher by Rs. 35 per qtl. or 9.2% over that of the last year.

(c) The increase provided by the Government in the MSP of wheat is expected to induce the farmers to increase their production and offer higher supplies for procurement to the public sector agencies.

(d) and (e) The Government has held discussions with the wheat producing states about the arrangement for procurement of wheat *vis-a-vis* other related problems such as storage, movement, availability of gunny bags, opening of purchase centres etc.

Graveyard Land of Wakf

1708. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Graveyard land of Wakf at Karnal-Ganj area of Kanpur, U.P. has been encroached and 500 buildings that were on rent are still not being vacated by the tenants; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the Wakf properties ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are six graveyards in Karnel Ganj area which are under encroachment by 251 persons. Out of these, 175 cases of encroachments are sub-judice and 76 cases have been referred to Sunni Central Wakf Board, Lucknow, by the Managing Committee of Graveyards for taking necessary action for retrieval of encroached properties under Uttar Pradesh Muslim Wakfs Act, 1960. These encroachments are of permanent nature.

Corrupt IPS Officers in Tamil Nadu

1709. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of IPS officers in Tamil Nadu as on December, 1996;

(b) the number of IPS officers in State against whom charges of corruption have been framed since 1995 till date; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There are 143 IPS officers in Tamil Nadu as on December, 1996.

(b) Corruption charges have been framed against 3 IPS officers since 1995.

(c) The State Government have already launched investigations against these officers.

[Translation]

SC/ST/OBC/Females Population in Uttar Pradesh

1710. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of Uttar Pradesh as per 1991 census and the percentage of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Classes/Females therein;

(b) the steps taken to provide reservation to them in services and political, economic and educational areas as per the provisions of the Constitution;

(c) whether Other Backward Class persons in the State have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details of the list pertaining to OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.